

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13

SSM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /089 W  
----- 016279

O R 051100Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 936

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IOMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5865

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SOFAR MEDIATING EFFORT

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR METWALLIE INFORMED ME TODAY, JULY 5, THAT YESTERDAY'S MEETING AT SOFAR, DESIGNED TO ARRANGE ANOTHER TELL ZAATAR CEASEFIRE, HAD HAD GOOD RESULTS. ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHALANGE, CHAMOUNISTS, PLO, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND ARAB LEAGUE MEDIATING MISSION MEMBERS, MEETING AGREED ON DECLARATION OF CEASEFIRE AT TELL ZAATAR BETWEEN 1100 AND 1200 NOON LOCAL TODAY. ELEMENTS OF ARAB LEAGUE FORCE WERE TO BE DEPLOYED TO PRESERVE CEASEFIRE. ALREADY ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO EVACUATE CERTAIN NUMBER OF WOUNDED.

2. METWALLI CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT REPORT HAD JUST COME IN  
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THAT CHRISTIAN VILLAGE OF CHEKKA, SOUTH OF TRIPOLI, HAS JUST BEEN

ATTACKED BY PALESTINIANS, PRESUMABLY IN RATALIATION FOR CHRISTIAN  
ATTACK ON TELL ZAATAR, AND THIS MIGHT WELL THROW MONKEY WRENCH INTO  
AGREEMENT.

3. METWALLI SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER MEETINGS IN SOFAR  
TODAY, SUPPOSEDLY TO BE ATTENDED BY "HIGHER LEVEL PERSONALIES,"  
WHICH HE WAS NOTABLE TO CLARIFY. EFFORTS ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO  
INDUCE REPRESENTATIVE OF JUMBLATT GROUP TO ATTEND MEETINGS, AND  
METWALLI UNDERSTAND JUMBLATTISTS ARE NOW DELIBERATING THIS  
PROPOSITION.

4. COMMENT: SINCE THIS IS FIRST TIME I HAVE MET WITH METWALLI,  
I HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING WHETHER HE IS AN ACCURATE REPORTER.  
HOWEVER, HE HAS SPENT FOUR AND A HALF YEARS IN LEBANON AND HAS  
BEEN EXTREMELY  
HELPFUL TO US IN PAST FEW WEEKS IN REGARD TO SECURITY MEASURES.  
I TEND TO ACCEPT FACT THAT SOFAR GOUP MAY WELL HAVE PROPOSED  
ANOTHER CEASEFIRE ALONG LINES INDICATED, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT  
TO BE OPTIMITOW THAT THIS CEASEFIRE, ANY MORE THAN 51 PREVIOUS  
CEASEFIRES, WILL HOLD. ON OTHER HAND, THERE IS BARE POSSBILITY THAT  
WE HAVE REACHED A POINT WHERE CONJUNCTION OF DEVELOPMENTS--WHICH WE  
WILL ANALYZE LATER THIS WEEK IN SEPTTEL--COULD PROVIDE A BREATHING  
SPELL.  
SEELYE

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NNN

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